

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of shredding a block of food material comprising cheese, the method comprising:

forming the block of food material by stacking a plurality of ribbons of the food material,
the block having narrow face and an elongated side;

rotating a drum about an axis, the drum having a plurality of blades configured to cut the block of food material; and

feeding the block of food material in a feed plane toward the drum in a feeding direction, the feeding direction being substantially perpendicular to the axis about which the drum rotates, and

cutting shreds of the food material from a front the narrow face of the block of food material with the plurality of blades.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein feeding the block of food material comprises moving the food material with an arm that forces the block of food material in the feed direction.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein feeding the block of food material comprises moving the food material with a mechanical arm.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein feeding the block of food material comprises moving the food material with a hydraulic arm.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein feeding the block of food material comprises placing the block of food material on rollers that move the block of food material in the feed direction.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently amended) A method of shredding a block of food material comprising cheese, the method comprising:

forming the block of food material having a narrow face and an elongated side by stacking a plurality of ribbons of food material;

providing a shredding unit having blades ~~configured to cut the block of material~~ revolving about an axis;

rotating the blades about the axis, wherein the blades define a cutting perimeter;

moving the block of food material toward the cutting perimeter on a feed plane and in a feeding direction, the feeding direction being generally perpendicular to the axis about which the blades ~~move~~ rotate; and

cutting shreds of the food material from ~~a~~ the narrow front face ~~of the block~~ thereof with the blades.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein moving the block of food material comprises placing the block of food material on a feed unit that moves the block of food material with an arm that forces the block of food material in the feeding direction.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein placing the block of food material on a feed unit that moves the block of food material comprises moving the block of food material with a mechanical arm.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein placing the block of food material on a feed unit that moves the block of food material comprises moving the food material with a hydraulic arm.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein moving the block of food material comprises placing the block of food material on a feed unit that moves the block of food material comprises placing the block of food material on rollers that move the block of food material in the feed direction.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein moving the block of food material comprises placing the block of food material on a feed unit that moves the block of food

material on a bottom belt to support the bottom surface of the block of food material, the bottom belt conveying the block of food material in the feed direction.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently amended) A method of forming shreds of cheese, the method comprising:

forming a continuous sheet of cheese;

cutting the sheet along a width of the continuous sheet of cheese to form a plurality of ribbons of cheese and stacking the ribbons to form a block having a narrow front face and an elongated side;

moving at least one cutting blade about an axis;

moving a the block of cheese in a feed direction toward the at least one cutting blade, the feed direction being generally perpendicular to the axis about which the at least one cutting blade moves rotates; and

cutting shreds of cheese from a the narrow front face of the block of cheese.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein moving at least one cutting blade about an axis comprises rotating a drum having a plurality of cutting blades on the drum.

18.- 20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein moving the block of food material comprises placing a block of cheese on a feed unit, and wherein the blades are configured to cut cheese.